

the lives of more than 1,600 American soldiers, we appear to be far from achieving them. I had the opportunity to visit Afghanistan last year to meet with our troops and commanders and see the situation on the ground for myself. Our men and women in uniform have been doing an outstanding job under incredibly difficult circumstances.

At the same time, my visit to Afghanistan also increased my concerns about our long-term goals and the viability of our mission there. Today, after having spent more than four hundred billion dollars, I believe we must ask ourselves how long we can continue spending \$6 billion every month for so little measurable gain.

I was disappointed by the President's announcement last month that we would be withdrawing only 10,000 troops this year and 23,000 by next summer, and that is why I supported an amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act that would have accelerated that withdrawal. The amendment I supported, offered by my colleague, Representative GARAMENDI, would have reduced funding for combat operations while allowing for a reserve force of 25,000 troops to protect American personnel, carry out anti-terrorism operations, and assist with the training of Afghanistan's security forces.

While I was disappointed this amendment did not pass, I cannot in good conscience vote against the underlying bill at this time. While our troops remain in harm's way, we have an obligation to ensure that they have the equipment, training, and support they need. However, I plan to continue to press for a plan that will quickly and responsibly bring more of our troops home from Afghanistan so that we can focus our resources on protecting our Nation and targeting the terrorists who threaten our security.

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HONORING ROBERT "BOB"  
GILBERT

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Robert "Bob" Gilbert on being named the California State Fair "Agriculturist of the Year," and to thank him for his dedication to the agriculture community.

Bob Gilbert was born November 7, 1923, in Oakdale in the home he now lives in. He attended Oakdale Elementary and High Schools. He is the only surviving child of Emma and Amos Lawrence Gilbert. He currently works full time and is Chairman of the Board of Directors of A. L. Gilbert Company which was established November 1st, 1892, 118 years ago, by his father; A. L. Gilbert. It is the oldest still-in-the-family-business in Stanislaus County. A. L. Gilbert Company was inducted into the State of California Agricultural Heritage Club in 2005.

Bob was a freshman at Modesto Junior College on December 7, 1941. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, he transferred to the University of California, Berkeley, and enrolled in the V-1 and V-12 Naval Programs. He received his commission from the United States Naval Reserve Mid-Shipman School at Northwestern University in Chicago at age 20.

After completing graduate school at the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, DC, he was assigned to duty on a new battle cruiser; the USS Guam, which was being commissioned in Philadelphia. This flag ship served in the 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th Pacific Fleets, and accepted the surrender of the Japanese in Korea in August of 1945. He returned to the United States on December 4, 1945, and married Beverly Stone on December 9th. They spent seven months in New Jersey while the battle cruiser was being mothballed.

Bob graduated from U. C. Berkeley under the G.I. Bill, receiving a B. S. in Agricultural Economics. In 1947 as a graduate student, he traveled over 4,000 miles covering the entire state of California. He spent seven days a week for six weeks with Professor Earl Storie, father of the Storie Soils Index, studying soil conditions which enable farmers to grow over 150 crops in California. He returned home in the fall of 1947, four months after his father died and joined the family business.

Bob discovered that agriculture was lacking in price enhancing marketing programs so he became involved in "END PRODUCT MARKETING." He has spent the last 60 years of his life as an advocate for agriculture. Over that time he worked building personal relationships with both industry and government on behalf of farmers and livestock producers, such as: California Department of Food and Agriculture, marketing and stabilization plans along with production cost studies; USDA and several Secretaries of Agriculture including Ezra Taft Benson, Earl Butz, Dick Lyng and Ann Veneman following trade policy, parity pricing and supply management programs; Food and Drug Administration; new drug applications, safety and efficacy; California Milk Advisory Board; allied industry support and awards; California and National Cattlemen's Marketing Committees—conducting extensive research studies; United States Congress, both House and Senate—working on key legislation and testifying in hearings; universities and research centers—throughout the United States; marketing research for Hershey Chocolate, 1962–1966—instrumental in their locating in California and Oakdale.

Some honors received include: 1964 Honorary Farmer Degree from Modesto Junior College; State Fair Grange Agriculture Day for contributions to milk pooling legislation; Grand Marshall, Oakdale Rodeo Parade; Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship, although not a Rotarian; Western United Dairymen Award for Outstanding Support of California Dairy Farmers; 50 years of economic testimony at CDFA hearings; Oakdale Chamber of Commerce and City of Oakdale Lifetime Achievement Award; California Dairy Campaign Award for dedication, strong leadership and unselfish giving; National Ag Science Center—Received 2005 induction into the Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Religious commitment: Served eight years on the Commission of Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin; supportive and active in a wide cross-section of Christian churches to further ecumenical causes; has received many honors and awards from various religious orders and fraternal bodies.

Bob has served on the Animal Science and Development Boards at the University of California, Davis. Currently, and for the past 18 years, he has also served on the prestigious Advisory Board of the College of Natural Resources and Environmental Science at the University of California, Berkeley.

In 1992 on the 100th Anniversary of Oakdale High School, the "Hall of Fame" was established. Bob was among the first 10 graduates ever honored for Outstanding Achievements and Exceptional Service.

Bob has traveled abroad extensively for the past 40 years, visiting over 90 countries, some many times, studying production and marketing agriculture as globalization has developed. This includes attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Bob's wife, Beverly, has been an integral part of all that he has done over the past 65 years. He continues to be a well-respected and active educator, business leader, patriot, politician, member of the laity, family man, student of and advocate for agriculture, and an exemplary citizen of the United States and the world.

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A TRIBUTE TO ADAM GREGORY  
HAGENSICK

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Adam Hagensick's formal induction into the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Adam's induction on June 30th begins his 47-month journey at the United States Naval Academy as he strives towards a career as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy. The United States Naval Academy was established in 1845 with a mission to help midshipmen develop morally, mentally and physically. Obtaining an appointment to this academy is a highly competitive process and based on evidence of character, scholarship, leadership ability, physical aptitude, goals and motivation.

Adam has embodied these traits over the course of his life. In high school Adam managed to stay in the top 15 percent of his class while balancing his roles as a student athlete, Sunday School teacher, member of St. John's Lutheran Youth Group, and as a volunteer swim coach for the Waukon Swim Club. Adam was also a member of the National Honor Society and received numerous awards as a swimmer including a decade as a state qualifier as well as a national qualifier in 2009. Last year, Adam proudly accepted the Jack McDonald Award for Outstanding Male Swimmer which is awarded for team leadership and dedication to one's team and sport. I am confident that Adam will carry the lessons of his student leadership to his new classmates at the United States Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Adam's commitment to a cause greater than himself speaks volumes of this young man and the potential that he holds. I commend his parents, Gregory and Ann, for their great work as parents and for their shared sacrifice as Adam leaves their home. It is truly an honor to represent such an outstanding family. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Adam and his family, and I wish him the best of luck in his schooling and future career.